

Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SY-05 MCT-01 CAB-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00

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R 131957Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8621

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR

SUBJ: TERRORIST ATTACK IN ISTANBUL AND INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SECURITY

REF: STATE 212490

1. EMBASSY IS OF OPINION THAT AIRPORT SECURITY AT NASSAU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT NEEDS CONSIDERABLE UPGRADING. IT IS POSSIBLE FOR UNSCREENED PERSONS TO MINGLE WITH SCREENED PASSENGERS IN TRANSIT LOUNGES. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE FOR PASSENGERS ON INCOMING FLIGHTS TO CO-MINGLE WITH OUTGOING PASSENGERS ON RAMP AREA WHICH ADVERSELY AFFECTS OPERATION OF PRECLEARANCE UNIT AT NASSAU. FORTUNATELY THE GCOB IS FULLY AWARE OF THE PROBLEM AND CORRECTIVE MEASURES ARE NOW BEING TAKEN.

2. EMBASSY HAS FOR OVER A YEAR WORKED THROUGH LOCAL AIRPORT SECURITY COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF U.S. PRECLEARANCE UNIT, EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRIES OF TOURISM AND AVIATION AND PUBLIC WORKS AS WELL AS ROYAL BAHAMAS POLICE FORCE TO IMPROVE AIRPORT SECURITY. AS A RESULT OF THIS EFFORT A PROPOSAL WAS RECENTLY SUBMITTED TO THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS WHICH, IF APPROVED AS EXPECTED, WILL AUTHORIZE THE IMMEDIATE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR CONSTRUCTION TO PREVENT

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COMMINGLING.

3. IN ADDITION, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER HANNA OF ROYAL BAHAMAS POLICE FORCE HAS RECENTLY ATTENDED A SPECIAL SEMINAR IN LONDON ON AIRPORT SECURITY WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON ANTI TERRORISM AND IS PRESENTLY WORKING ON A COMPREHENSIVE AIRPORT SECURITY PLAN. GCOB HAS RATIFIED 1970 HAGUE AND IS PRESENTLY CONSIDERING RATIFICATION 1971 MONTREAL CONVENTION.

4. IN SUM, GCOB IS FULLY AWARE OF IMPORTANCE AIRPORT SECURITY BUT BECAUSE OF BUREAUCRATIC AND FINANCIAL LIMITATION HAS BEEN SLOW IN TAKING CORRECT ACTION. EMBASSY BELIEVES AT THIS POINT, HOWEVER, THAT SOME PROGRESS IS BEING OR WILL BE SHORTLY ACHIEVED.

5. EMBASSY WOULD DEFINITELY BE INTERESTED IN FAA'S SECURITY TRAINING PROGRAM IN U.S. AS WELL AS POSSIBILITY OF VISIT BY FAA SECURITY SPECIALIST AND IS CONFIDENT THAT GCOB AUTHORITIES CONCERNED WITH AIRPORT SECURITY WOULD WELCOME SUCH ASSISTANCE. IN VIEW NASSAU'S GEOGRAPHIC PROXIMITY TO U.S. AND NUMBER OF PASSENGERS ARRIVING HERE DAILY, WE FEEL THAT BAHAMAS SHOULD DEFINITELY BE GIVEN HIGH PRIORITY.
TAYLOR

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